(iv) Self employment is promoted through the following:—

(a) Allotment of vending stalls, kiosks and shops by some State Governments/UTs.

(b) Loans from Nationalised Banks at concessional Rates of Interest;

(c) Preference in allotment of Public Telephone booths;

(d) Reservation in distribution of Petrol Pumps, Kerosene Depots etc.

(2) A National Handicapped Finance & Development Corporation has been registered on 24.1.97 under Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956 to provide opportunities for skill development and loan assistance on easy terms to the disabled persons to set up self-employment ventures.

Fight Against the Menace of Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

, 614. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether International day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking was observed on 26th June, 1997;

(b) if so, the effective measures being taken by Government to fight against the menace of drug abuse with the greater thrust on the vulnerable sections of the society like street children, sex workers, truck drivers, tribal belts, students, girls etc; and

(c) if not, the specific reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Ministry of Welfare is implementing the Scheme for Prohibition and Drug Abuse Prevention since 1985-86 wherein grant-in-aid is given to voluntary organisations for setting up of Drug De-adiction-cum-Rehabilitation Centres, Drug Awareness Counselling Centres and for conducting Awareness Preventive Education Programmes. One of the main objectives of the Scheme is to promote collective initiatives and self-help endeavours among individuals and groups vulnerable to addiction or found at risk which inter-alia include street children, commerial sex workers, tribal population etc. The Ministry is also constantly interacting with the NGOs receiving grant under the Scheme to focus more attention on these targt groups. The Ministry has also addressed to the State Governments to assess the requirement for the specialised Centres for treatment and rehabilitation of women, child drug addicts and commercial sex workers.

The Ministry in collaboration with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), United Nations International Children Emergency Fund (UNICEF) and World Health Organisations (WHO) and National Aids Control Programme (NACO), Ministry of Health, Overseas Development Agency (ODA) has also conducted a study on "Reducing risk behaviour relating to HIV/AIOs/STD, Drug Abuse amongst street children". City level Workshops in 4 cities viz. Bombay, Hyderabad, Calcutta and Delhi as well as a National Workshop has been held for developing city level and national level work plans.

(c) Does not arise.

Implementation of Special Component Plan

615. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) The Statge and Union territories where the special component plan for scheduled caste is being implemented; and

(b) the details of assets created during the years 1995-96 and 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) In the following 24 States and Union Territories Special Component Plan for Scheduled Caste is being implemented; Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Chandigarh, Delhi and Pondicherry.

(b) All the 24 States/UTs which have Special Component Plan for Scheduled Castes have already been requested to furnish the details, of assets created for Scheduled Castes. The details will be placed on the table of the House on receipt of the same from the States/UTs.

Non-Implcmcntation of any Scheme with the NHWF

616. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that not a single scheme or project has been implemented so far with the National Handicapped Welfare Fund set up in 1983;

(b) if so, what was the objective of setting up the said Fund;

(c) the estimated amount of fund held at present by NHWF; and

(d) the reasons for not utilising the fund to any of the scheme so far?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Handicapped Welfare Fund was created to fulfil the following objectives:-

(i) To promote voluntary sector for creating services for the handicapped for prevention, early detection of disabilities, education, training, physical and economic rehabilitation of disabled persons.

(ii) To do all other things that are incidental and conducive to the above objective.

(c) At present, a sum of Rs. 8.05 crore (approx.) is available in the National Handicapped Welfare Fund.

(d) Schemes to be funded out of the National Handicapped Welfare Fund could not be finalised. As such, no funds could be utilised.

Recruitment of Physically Handicapped in Government

617. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be please to state:

(a) whether the provision of 3% reservation in Government jobs for handicapped and disabled is being implemented in the Ministries and Public Sector Undertakings of Governments of India;

(b) if so, the number of such persons employed during last one year and percentage yet to be filled in out of left over quota as backlog;

(c) how Government propose to fill in the backlog within this year and the strategies devised for this purpose;

(d) whether Chief Commissioner of Handicapped has since been appointed; and

(e) if so, since when and if not, the reasons for not filling the post since February 1996?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) to (c) The required information is being called for from concerned Ministers/Deptts. and public sector undertakings.